

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 COME-00 INT-05 GSA-01

OIC-02 TRSE-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 L-03 /062 W

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R 121458Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4494

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FOR EB/ISM - HEWITT

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL (ITC): QUESTION OF
FUTURE MEETING SITES AND OTHER BUSINESS

REF: (A) SANDBERG - HEWITT TELCON, AUGUST 9
(B) STATE 198076

1. ITC EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, PETER LAI, CALLED EMBASSY AUGUST 9 SEEKING OUR REACTION TO INFORMAL FRG INVITATION TO HOLD ITC MEETING IN HAMBURG IN EITHER JUNE OR SEPT-EMBER, 1977. LAI SAID ITC HAS ALREADY COMMITTED ITSELF (WE ASSUME UNDER THE FOURTH AGREEMENT) TO HOLD AN UP-COMING ITC MEETING IN LA PAZ. HE IS PRESENTLY CHECKING WITH BOLIVIANS ON LIKELY DATES, BUT ASSUMES IT WILL HAVE TO BE IN EARLY 1977. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SOME MEM-BERS OF COUNCIL MIGHT FEEL TWO MEETINGS OUTSIDE LONDON IN ONE YEAR "WOULD BE OVERDOING IT." IN REPLY, WE OFFERED PERSONAL OBSERVATION THAT CONCERN WELL FOUNDED IN THAT USG GENERALLY OPPOSES HOLDING MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL BODIES AWAY FROM NORMAL HOST CITIES.

2. LAI STATED HE WELL AWARE OF USG VIEWS ON THIS SUB-JECT FROM HIS TIME IN GENEVA. HE ADDED THAT THIS WAS ONE REASON WHY FRG ASKED HIM TO POLL COUNCIL BEFORE IT
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WENT AHEAD WITH FORMAL INVITATION. HE SAID THAT WHILE

HE HAS AN OPEN MIND ON SUBJECT, HE SEES ADVANTAGES IN GOING TO HAMBURG. THIS IS FIRST TIME A CONSUMER, OTHER THAN ITC HOST COUNTRY UK, HAS INVITED THE COUNCIL. HE WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO HAVE IT APPEAR TO SNUB A MAJOR CONSUMER BY REFUSING INVITATION SO CLOSE ON HEELS OF MEETING IN A PRODUCER CAPITAL. FURTHER, HAMBURG'S PROXIMITY TO LONDON REDUCES THE ADDITIONAL TRAVEL EXPENSES WHICH WOULD ARGUE AGAINST A CHANGE OF VENUE.

3. AMONG THE CONSUMERS, LAI HAS ONLY BEEN ABLE TO QUERY UK'S MICHAEL JOHNSON. ACCORDING TO LAI, JOHNSON WOULD NOT OPPOSE FRG INVITATION AS COST INVOLVED IN SHIFT WOULD NOT BE GREAT. WE TOLD LAI WE WOULD PASS HIS REQUEST TO DEPARTMENT FOR CONSIDERATION AND REPORT BACK ASAP.

4. WE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF LAI'S CALL TO ASK HIM ABOUT STATUS OF CHAIRMANSIPS FOR ITC COMMITTEES. HE SAID HE IS HOPING TO REACH CONSENSUS AMONG MEMBERS OVER THIS ISSUE BY SEPTEMBER TO ENABLE COMMITTEES TO MEET AND SELECT CHAIRMEN PRIOR TO OCTOBER ITC MEETING. HE SAID IT HAS BEEN GENERALLY AGREED THAT U.S. WILL CHAIR COSTS AND PRICES. DISCUSSIONS NOW CENTERING ON DISPOSITION OF BUFFER STOCK AND STATISTICAL BETWEEN MALAYSIANS AND INDONESIANS.

5. PER REFTTEL (B), ITC SECRETARY PHELPS IS ASSEMBLING DOCUMENTS AND WILL PASS THEM TO U.S. ASAP. HE IS UNAWARE OF ANY PRICE ELASTICITY STUDIES FOR MAJOR CONSUMERS. ITRC MAY, HOWEVER, HAVE SOMETHING.

ARMSTRONG

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